

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 NSC-10 DRC-01 /065 W

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R 252200Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3728

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 7073

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: FAREWELL LUNCHEON HOSTED BY FORMIN

1. FORMIN ALBERTO VIGNES AND HIS WIFE HOSTED A FAREWELL LUNCHEON IN MY HONOR AND IN HONOR OF MY WIFE ON MONDAY SEP 24. THERE WERE SOME 40 GUESTS, INCLUDING MINISTER OF JUSTICE ANTONIO BENITEZ, FORMER FONMIN HIPOLITO PAZ, THE ENTIRE UPPER ECHELON OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND A LARGE AND DISTINGUISHED GROUP OF MY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES.

2. IN HIS TOAST, WHICH WAS NOTABLY WARM AND FRIENDLY, THE FONMIN STATED THAT THERE WERE TWO OUTSTANDING ELEMENTS WHICH FACILITATED DIALOGUE WITH ME: THE FIRST, MY PERFECT MASTERY OF SPANISH, WHICH MADE IT POSSIBLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH ALL LEVELS OF ARGENTINE SOCIETY; THE SECOND, A SPIRIT OPEN TO HUMAN COMMUNICATION WHICH "OPENED HIS HOME AND FRIENDSHIP TO PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE SECTORS OF ARGENTINA." HE CALLED THE RESIDENCE "A HOME WITH OPEN DOORS," AND ADDED: "TEACHERS, POLITICIANS, ARTISTS, WRITERS, BUSINESSMEN, NEWSMEN AND PEOPLE IN ALL THE PROFESSIONS ARE AMONG HIS CLOSEST FRIENDS." VIGNES ALSO REFERRED TO MY PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS AND INNATE CURIOSITY, WHICH HE TERMED "PROVERBIAL" AND WHICH, HE SAID, CARRIED ME THROUGH THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF ARGENTINE TERRITORY. HE MENTIONED TOO THE SEVERAL BILATERAL AGREEMENTS DESIGNED TO PERFECT RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND ARGENTINA WHICH WERE DEVELOPED AND SIGNED DURING MY PERIOD AS CHIEF OF MISSION HERE, AND WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO "THE TIRELESS ACTIVITY OF AMBASSADOR LODGE."

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IN CONCLUSION HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE INDEFATIGABLE AND IMAGINATIVE

SUPPORT OF MY WIFE FOR CULTURAL INTER-CHANGE AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES.

3. IN MY RETURN TOAST, I REFERRED TO OUR DELIGHT WITH AND GREAT INTEREST IN THE PEOPLE AND CULTURE OF ARGENTINA AND THE DIVERSE RANGE AND BEAUTY OF ITS LANDSCAPES, WHICH WE LEAVE, AS WITH OUR MANY FRIENDS HERE, WITH DEEP NOSTALGIA AND FOND REMEMBRANCE. I REITERATED A THEME WHICH I HAVE OFTEN EXPRESSED HERE THAT THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE WILL SURELY ACHIEVE THEIR NATIONAL GOALS AND THAT, IN THIS INCREASINGLY INTERDEPENDENT WORLD, ARGENTINA AND THE UNITED STATES SHARE A COMMON DESTINY AND A GREAT FUTURE.
LODGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, AGREEMENTS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, CHIEF OF STATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUENOS07073
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730913/aaaaajjl.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleww0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Oct-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2002 by kelleww0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAREWELL LUNCHEON HOSTED BY FORMIN
TAGS: PFOR, AR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005